

City of Guelph Ward 2 Candidates*

*Responses from additional Ward 2 candidates were not received, including: Andy Van Hellemond, and Martin Collier



Ray Ferraro



James Gordon



Chris Keleher Sr.



Sian Matwey

SECTION 1: AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

1. What measures would you support and promote to ensure that individuals and families living in poverty have a safe and affordable place to live?

Convene an immediate meeting with the prov & fed govts to obtain housing funding quickly

I would encourage the implementation of the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness plan; Support local businesses who can pay a living wage; Create and support an affordable housing reserve fund; address income inequality; 'de-ghetto-ize' neighbourhoods by attaching affordable housing units to any new housing developments as a condition for permit approval

I would support the following: making annual contributions to an affordable housing reserve fund, lower or waive development charges and other municipal fees for affordable housing, I fully support the implementation of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan, advocate to all levels of government on issues related to housing. Homelessness in Guelph and Wellington County is a serious issues and I touched on it briefly at the televised Ward 2 debate on Rogers TV it is an issue that is very important to me and I will be a strong voice to do whatever it takes to get things moving on

My first measure would be to run for City Council which I committed to last year. I know all three of the Ladies in the videos: Barb, Tina and Judy! I have lived in poverty, as a single mom, so I understand first hand the issues and it is one of the main reasons I choose to run in this upcoming election. Thank you for all the work you are doing to get more voters out that care about these issues!

		this issue!	
2. Do you agree to make annual contributions to an affordable housing reserve fund and strategically partner with key stakeholders to utilize the fund as needed? Please explain.			
No. I can't agree to this without knowing the plan. The question is to general.	Yes. We are in an affordable housing crisis; too often housing starts get pushed out of budgets in times of recession. We need to be resilient in our funding model. This reserve fund would provide that.	Yes. See question 1	Yes. Everyone deserves a warm place to call home!
3. Would you support waiving development charges and other municipal fees for affordable housing geared towards low-income renters? Please explain.			
Yes. As a former councillor this is a must along with the waiving of HST and Ontario fees.	Yes. This would be a good incentive for builders and developers to participate in the creation of new affordable housing starts	Yes. See question 1	Yes. There is not enough affordable housing and if this would help....most certainly....YES!
<h2>SECTION 2: INCOME INEQUALITY</h2>			
1. What role can the municipality play in reducing income inequality and income insecurity?			
Provide basic affordable housing and servicing costs. The other 2 issues have to be Ont/Fed	We can, by developing our innovation, green industry, and entrepreneurial sectors, provide an environment that would attract employers who offer secure, full-time, living wage jobs. We tend to focus our attention on the largest	Take a leadership position by naming and keeping poverty on the public agenda.	My daughter makes minimum wage and is barely able to keep afloat...I think this should become an essential municipal concern

	<p>manufacturers who often thrive on temp jobs and minimum wage jobs. These will not support families or address inequality. Incentives for small local businesses CAN do this. We can lobby the province to create more robust job creation policies.</p>		
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2. Would you support and promote a living wage for the City of Guelph (paying all municipal staff a living wage and promoting the living wage among employers)? Please explain.

<p>Yes. Municipal staff–yes Private employers not possible for a municipal council</p>	<p>Yes. If we are not paying a living wage to our own workers, we are not valuing them or giving them the opportunity to be taxpayers and contributors. Providing a living wage increases productivity, employee well-being, reduces sick days and is overall of economic benefit. This is the first step towards addressing income disparity.</p>	<p>Yes. I support a living wage, however this could be difficult to implement with city staff as they have collective labour agreements and that could become a contentious issue!</p>	<p>Yes...there is too BIG of a gap between the rich and the poor in this community. Everyone deserves a fair wage for the same amount of time spent on a job!</p>
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SECTION 3: FOOD INSECURITY

1. What municipal food related policies and programs would you support to ensure that people living on low-income have access to healthy and affordable food?

<p>I believe affordable housing is the most important issue that the city can act on quickly</p>	<p>we can support and enhance the already good work that our neighbourhood associations are doing in this area. We can encourage and support urban farming CSA's. We can support education programs around nutrition and 'cooking for less'. We can encourage programs through grocery stores for distribution of fresh produce; We can support local farmers with incentives, and grow our organic programs</p>	<p>Provide financial and resource support to local innovative food programs and initiatives.</p>	<p>Find a way to bring the food closer to the community. This could be achieved in the North End by building a Brant Community Hub and continue the good work the North End Market is doing!</p>
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at the University.

2. Would you commit financial and resource support for improved coordination of emergency food delivery by supporting the Seed Community Food Hub? Please explain.

Resource support and coordination yes--
Financial from the Ontario & federal gov.

Yes. Seed is a great new initiative- a support system that, with financial support, could fill a real need in our community.

Yes. Once financial resources have been allocated then involve all stakeholders to come together to collaborate on how to improve and implement the coordination of emergency food delivery.

Yes. This is near and dear to my heart and that is why I am running to fight for each and everyone of these initiatives!

3. Would you support additional funding for local food-based initiatives that increase access to healthy food for those that cannot afford it?

I can't commit city funding without full details

Yes. This addresses income inequity and encourages the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. When they are not thriving, we don't thrive as a community. Encouraging these initiatives also creates jobs!

Yes. We need to provide more centres like The Drop In Centre

Yes, and the city of Guelph just received a Million dollar Grant for this initiative so the money is there...we just need to find a way to put it into the right people's pockets!!

SECTION 4: HEALTH INEQUITIES

1. What programs and policies would you support to increase health and well-being among low-income communities?

I have no experience to answer this question

Building healthy, walkable neighbourhoods with green spaces and efficient affordable housing and transit, providing access and education around nutritious, affordable food, providing safe adequate housing, all support and encourage well-being and health. encouraging a diversity of incomes and demographics in each neighbourhood helps. Incentives for neighbourhood

Involve individuals from the health sector on coming with ways and means of providing health and dental clinics to the vulnerable in the community.

Continue to support programs that are already running out of places like the Hope House and the Life Center. I lived years without benefits so again, I know first hand this problem and will fight for a way to alleviate it!

	accessible health clinics, and more funding for social workers and support workers.		
2. Do you support the use of municipal funds to ensure that individuals and families living at or below the living wage would have access to subsidies for recreation and cultural events? Please explain.			
Yes. Please note my election platform and website have stated the urgent need for housing	Yes. Any investment in the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens pays dividends economically and socially.	Yes. I think to some degree this is already happening, I would support increasing any subsidies where necessary.	Yes. My children missed out on playing sports because of this problem so I totally would support the subsidies!